

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A bariatric bed, comprising:
a frame adapted to support patients having weights in the range of 500 to 800 pounds;
said frame including an articulated mattress support for supporting a mattress, said support including at least first, second and third articulatable sections positioned to support a leg region, a seat region and a head region, respectively, of the mattress supported on said support;
a raise-and-lower mechanism for generally raising and lowering the entire mattress support relative to a floor-engaging portion of the frame;
an articulation mechanism for articulating the mattress support from a relatively horizontal, lying position to a seated position; and
[mattress support relative to a floor-engaging portion of the frame; and]
controls for tilting the mattress support lengthwise.

Please enter the following new claims:

2. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 1, wherein said raise-and-lower mechanism comprises a head end torque arm and a leg end torque arm, each said torque arm being pivotally disposed upon said frame, said leg end torque arm being adapted to support said second articulatable section from a first pair of laterally diverse points, said first pair being substantially adjacent said first articulatable section, and said head end torque arm being adapted to support said second articulatable section from a second pair of laterally diverse points, said second pair being substantially adjacent said third articulatable section.

3. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 2, wherein each said torque arm is independently actuatable.

4. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 3, wherein said raise-and-lower mechanism further comprises:

a leg end jack, said leg end jack being adapted to actuate said leg end torque arm for raising and lowering of the portion of said second articulatable section adjacent said first articulatable section; and

a head end jack, said head end jack being adapted to actuate said head end torque arm for raising and lowering of the portion of said second articulatable section adjacent said third articulatable section.

5. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 4, wherein said leg end jack is actuatable by a first jack motor and said head end jack is actuatable by a second jack motor.

6. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 5, wherein each said jack motor is a linear actuator type motor.

7. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 3, wherein said raise-and-lower mechanism is adapted to position said mattress support in up to 10° Trendelenburg.

8. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 3, wherein said raise-and-lower mechanism is adapted to position said mattress support in up to 12° reverse Trendelenburg.

9. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 3, wherein said mattress support comprises a radiolucent section, said radiolucent section being adapted to allow radiographic examination of a patient while positioned upon said mattress support.

10. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 9, wherein said radiolucent section comprises a radiolucent window through said third articulatable section.

11. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 10, wherein said radiolucent window comprises an X-ray cassette tray.

12. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 11, wherein said X-ray cassette tray is adapted to permit insertion and removal of an X-ray film without repositioning of the patient under radiographic examination.

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13. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 11, wherein said X-ray cassette tray comprises a mechanism adapted for positioning of an X-ray film within said X-ray cassette, said mechanism being independently operable from either side of said bariatric bed.

14. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 3, wherein said frame further comprises an integral scale, said scale being adapted to determine the weight of a patient positioned upon said mattress support.

15. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 4, wherein said articulation mechanism comprises a head-up jack dependently interposed between said second articulatable section and said third articulatable section, said head-up jack being adapted to articulate said third section relative to said second section for raising and lowering of the head region of the mattress.

16. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 15, wherein said articulation mechanism further comprises a leg-down jack dependently interposed between said second articulatable section and said first articulatable section, said leg-down jack being adapted to articulate said first section relative to said second section for lowering and raising of the leg region of the mattress.

17. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 16, wherein said leg end jack, head end jack, head-up jack and leg-down jack are cooperatively adapted to position the mattress support as a cardiac chair.

18. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 16, wherein said leg end jack, head end jack, head-up jack and leg-down jack are cooperatively adapted to articulate the mattress support into a position that facilitates patient ingress and egress over the leg region of the mattress.

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19. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 18, wherein said frame further comprises a foot board assembly, said foot board assembly being adapted to articulate relative to said first section, from a resting position, when a force is applied thereto, but to increasingly resist said force with increasing degree of articulation.

20. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 19, wherein said foot board assembly comprises a dampening member, said dampening member being adapted to prevent rapid returns of said foot board assembly to said resting position.

21. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 3, said bariatric bed further comprising a plurality of laterally adjustable side rails, each said side rail being collapsible to a transport position within the side planes of said frame.

22. The bariatric bed as recited in claim 21, wherein at least one said side rail comprises an interiorly positioned, integral bed control, said bed control comprising a display and being adapted to effect articulation of said mattress support.
